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## mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

### letter from the editor



Spring break is over and we are in the final stretch of the school year. Our teachers are beginning to pile on the homework as they try to squeeze every bit of productiveness out of us that they can. This is the season of the research paper and the final exam. We will be up past midnight studying and typing up 10 page papers due the next day. Keep your brain from completely frying. Read a book purely for the story and not because you have a report on it due tomorrow.

**Leon Eubanks**  
open shelf Editor

Send comments and suggestions to  
YaacEditor@hotmail.com



### rating system

bad ★  
so-so ★★  
good ★★★  
excellent ★★★★★

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see the **Totally Teens** page!

### The Client

By John Grisham

Eleven-year-old Mark and his little brother Ricky were just out for a little stroll in the woods to smoke a forbidden cigarette or two. They never guessed for a second that they would become entangled in a Mafia murder case. In the woods, Mark and Ricky encounter Jerome Clifford, a Mafia lawyer who has driven into a secluded space to off himself. Before he dies, he grabs Mark and reveals the location of the most famous dead body in the country. The feds have been looking for this body for months and now Mark is the only person in the world who knows its location besides its killer—a Mafia hit man. So what does Mark do? Well, in the first of many remarkable things this little boy does, he hires a lawyer, Reggie Love.

**The Firm** is not a great work of literature, but it does exactly what a thriller is supposed to do—thrill.

—Erin Hutchinson ★★★★★

### The Jack Henry series

By Jack Gantos

This is a series of four books. They talk about Jack Henry, starting from the fourth grade to the seventh grade. Even though the main character is very young, older readers would also enjoy these books. They are very funny, and I would definitely recommend them to anyone looking for

### This month:

*The Client* by John Grisham

*The Jack Henry series* by Jack Gantos

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

*Shadow of the Hegeman* by Orson Scott Card

*Memories of Summer* by Ruth White

*Collected Works of Edgar Allen Poe*

by Edgar Allen Poe

*So Much to Live For* by Lurlene McDaniel

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*The O'Reilley Factor* by Bill O'Reilley

books that will make you laugh out loud.

—Jason Yan ★★★★★

### Stargirl

By Jerry Spinelli

Star people are special because they are different. When a star person likes you enough to change himself or herself for you, you had better hold on tight. This is what Leo Borlock learned. Stargirl was different in her ways and her thinking and her dress. She carried around a rat and a ukulele. She believed that you should do good things for people. She was not popular at school so she changed. She got rid of her rat and she put on "regular" clothes. Why did she change? What became of her? Read the book and find out.

—Jasmine Williamson ★★★★★

### Shadow of the Hegeman

By Orson Scott Card

In this sequel to **Ender's Shadow**, Bean and the other heroes of the Bugger War are back on Earth at their homes. But someone has started kidnapping the kids, and the name Achilles is whispered. Then, Petra Arkanian is kidnapped and someone tries to kill Bean. Bean must rise up against an army controlled by Petra, who is the slave of Achilles. Bean has to control the Thailand army against the powerful Indian army, and he must plan a rescue for Petra. I liked this book a lot. I thought the ending

was a little weak, but the rest of the book was really good. Also, you'll find out about Bean!

—*Andrea Alonge* ★ ★ ★ ★

## Memories of Summer

By Ruth White

This novel follows Lyric and her older sister, Summer. Lyric and Summer move from their rural country home to the city with their father. Their mother died after a bout of mental illness, and it soon becomes clear that Summer is fast descending in her footsteps. White writes of Summer's illness, but her touching story closely chronicles the strength of the sisters' love for one another. Ruth White adopts a blunt writing style with short revealing lines. This may give readers the impression that there is more to the story than they are privileged to see.

—*Sara Thorson* ★ ★ ★ ★

## Collected Works of

## Edgar Allen Poe

By Edgar Allen Poe

Bats and black cats and psychos, what else could make great main characters in a horror story? Edgar Allen Poe is one of the most respected authors of his time. His bone-chilling poems and his just downright weird stories make a wonderful collection and a book you can't put down. I would recommend this book to anyone. Read it!

—*Janelle Novotny* ★ ★ ★ ★

## So Much to Live For

By Lurlene McDaniel

Dawn has fought a long and hard battle with leukemia and finally, after a bone marrow transplant from her brother, she just wants to forget everything connected with cancer. A nurse talks her into becoming a counselor at the camp for kids with cancer that she used to go to, and she does. There, she meets a girl named Marlee. Cancer has taken away one of her eyes and she has a glass one to replace

it, but she's still mean to everyone. Dawn warms her up but after camp Marlee's doctors find a tumor on her stomach and she asks Dawn to be there for her. Dawn grows suspicious that the doctors aren't doing much to help Marlee. She consults Marlee's only family—her grandmother—and finds out the truth. Marlee, her new friend who understood about cancer like nobody did at that point, was being taken away from her by the hand of death, just as her last friend Sandy was. Why does it seem that everyone Dawn knows and cares about dies? But then Dawn realizes that she has been chosen to carry on for her friends and that even though they're gone she still has so much to live for.

—*Andrianna Rodriguez* ★ ★ ★ ★

## The Great Gatsby

By F. Scott Fitzgerald

Jay Gatsby stood at the end of his lawn, looking across the water at a blinking green light. His arms were outstretched and an expression of incredible longing played across his face.

This novel reveals the illusion of 1920s society in a shocking tale of broken relationships and selfish desire. The symbolism of this book is incredible, but not discouragingly complex as is common with most symbolic novels. I loved this book and recommend it to all! Although this is a classic, the language is natural and the book is very understandable.

—*Mia Fioritto* ★ ★ ★ ★

## The O'Reilly Factor

By Bill O'Reilly

Have you ever read a book by a journalist? Hopefully so, however for those of you who have been deprived for the better part of your life, I will give you a chance to redeem yourself. Read this book! Most of you will probably identify with me if I tell you I go to public school. This is relevant, because lots of left wing and liberal politics are spawned there like air-pollution; so, hearing from a conservative TV news reporter brings a breath of fresh air to the stagnant and often offensive liberalism

preached to me on a daily basis. Bill O'Reilly discusses important topics, such as family values, drugs and punishment (or lack thereof in our wonderful democracy!), and the degenerating state of our great society. He cuts down the laughable policy of P.C., or political correctness, a system pampering everybody and giving personal responsibility to no one. He talks about the god-like worship of celebrities and how they are our role models (at least for the not-so-wise majority of the population) who can commit any crime, or do any stupid act, and still hold "our" love. Maybe most importantly though, he denounces fans of bigger government and those that would perpetuate the big lie that taxes need to be 33% of your yearly income so the government can operate. Ha! Anyway, I've put in my two cents worth, so pick up that book and take a ride through the spin-free zone (lie-free zone). If you don't like what you read, it's too late for you, my friend!

—*David LaHale* ★ ★ ★ ★

# Comix! Comix! Comix!

Saturday, April 21

1-2:30 p.m.

Mesa Public Library

Youth Activity Room

64 E. 1st Street

Atomic Comics of Mesa will present what's new in the world of comics. Learn what's hot and collectible, how to buy and sell comics, and how to preserve your treasured copies. For more information, call (480) 644-2734

*No registration necessary*



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